

BOLHOUSE, BAAR & HOFSTEE, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Does Your Auto Insurance Policy Give You Enough Coverage?

Richard L. Bolhouse

May 2016

If you spend any amount of time at all watching television, you know how bombarded you can be with commercials by automobile insurance companies hoping you will use their company to provide your automobile insurance needs. While these insurance companies claim they are the best and the most affordable, key questions for you are what kind of insurance are you actually buying and are you buying adequate protection?

We recently handled a personal injury case where the at-fault driver who caused of the accident was uninsured. Unfortunately, Michigan usually ranks in the top 5 states in the country for people driving with no insurance whatsoever. The most recent statistics available on uninsured motorists show that 21% of Michigan drivers are driving with no insurance. This means that one out of every five cars on the road is not insured!

Michigan law provides that when a person purchases automobile insurance, they can carry as little as \$20,000 worth of bodily injury liability coverage. This is the amount that would be paid to someone injured, no matter how seriously, as a result of their negligence. Getting back to the case I referenced above, our client was seriously injured by the other driver who had the minimum \$20,000 policy. That meant the most we were able to collect from the insurance company of the negligent driver was \$20,000. We all know \$20,000 doesn't go very far these days.

There is a way to protect yourself from such a situation. When purchasing your own automobile insurance, you have the option of adding uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. Uninsured motorist coverage protects you in the event that you are seriously injured or killed by a driver who has no insurance. Underinsured coverage protects you if you are seriously injured or killed and the negligent driver does not have sufficient insurance to compensate you for your injuries or your family in the event of your death. These optional additions are relatively inexpensive and with Michigan's poor insurance coverage statistics, it is critical to have adequate uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage.

For over 35 years, our Personal Injury attorneys have been representing individuals who are seriously injured in an automobile accident, or their families in the event they are killed, and who are entitled to a significant monetary recovery. When they themselves do not carry uninsured and/or underinsured motorist coverage, they may end up with the legal minimum of \$20,000, or worse yet, nothing. Check your policy to see what kind of coverage you have. And if you have any questions, we are happy to help.